

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA GT BH UK

SUBJ: BELIZE--VISIT OF IVOR RICHARD TO GUATEMALA

REF: GUATEMALA 5959; LONDON 16479

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

UKUN MISSION OFFICER RICHARDSON INFORMED USUN MISSION OFFICER ON OCTOBER 28 OF DETAILS OF UK PERMREP RICHARD'S AND RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AND MONDAY, OCTOBER 27. THEY MET FOR 5 HOURS ON OCT. 26 WITH PRIME MINISTER MOLINA, AYCINENA, SKINNER-KLEE AND SANCHEZ. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

1. ON OCT 28 USUN MISSION OFFICER MET WITH RICHARDSON AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE VISIT TO GUATEMALA. RICHARDSON SAID THAT THE DECISION TO UNDERTAKE THE VISIT RESULTED FROM A MEETING BETWEEN THE UK AND GUATEMALAN REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK ON FRIDAY OCT. 24. THE GUATEMALANS THREATENED MILITARY ACTION IF A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS DECLARED OR IF A "HUMILIATING" RESOLUTION ON BELIZE IS APPROVED
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BY THE GA.

2. RICHARD DECIDED ON THE BASIS OF THE FRIDAY CONVERSATION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SEEK FOREIGN MINISTER MILINA PERSONALLY TO INSURE THAT HIS PERCEPTION OF UK INTENTIONS IS ACCURATE. HE BELIEVES THAT GUATEMALAN PERMREP MALDONADO'S REPORTING OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK HAS NOT BEEN ACCURATE. RICHARDSON BELIEVES THAT MALDONADO, WHO BELONGS TO THE EXTREME RIGHT WING OF SANDOVAL'S PARTY, HAS PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS AND MAY BE DISTORTING HIS REPORTING FOR PERSONAL POLITICAL REASONS.

3. RICHARD EXPRESSED TO MOLINA, ACCORDING TO RICHARDSON, THE DESIRE OF THE UK TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS HOPE THAT THE BELIZE QUESTION CAN BE RESOLVED IN 1976. HE TOLD MOLINA HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE RESOLUTION CAN NOW BE SOFTENED ALTHOUGH NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE.

4. MOLINA IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED THAT THE RESOLUTION IS "ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE," THE GUATEMALA CANNOT ACCEPT REFERENCES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS ESTABLISHED BY THE RESOLUTION. HE SAID THAT RICHARD'S ONLY POSITIVE IDEA WAS RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. RICHARD EMPHASIZED TO MOLINA THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE DIFFICULTY WHICH THE UK HAD ENCOUNTERED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEANS. RICHARD SAID THE UK HAD LIVED UP TO ITS PROMISE TO GUATEMALA OF COMING UP WITH AS MILD A RESOLUTION AS POSSIBLE AND LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THE MEETING WITH RICHARDSON WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE ARRIVAL OF BELIZEAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROGERS AND MINISTER OF STATE SHOMAN, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO NEW YORK. RICHARDSON SUGGESTED A FURTHER MEETING OCT. 28.

7. RICHARDSON PROMISED TO PROVIDE US WITH A COPY OF THE UK TELEGRAM REPORTING RICHARD'S VISIT WHICH WE WILL
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TRANSMIT ASAP.
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